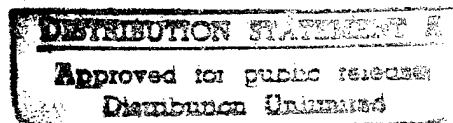


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14 December 1982



Latin America Report

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BIGNONE ON ELECTIONS, STRIKES, FALKLANDS

PY021449 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT
2 Dec 82

[Press conference granted by Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone upon leaving Government House in Buenos Aires on 1 December, broadcast during the "60 Minutes" program--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bignone] The national government, in agreement with the armed forces, has decided that the elections which should be held in order to end the country's institutionalization process will be held in 1983, quite possibly during the last quarter of 1983. And I say quite possibly because what is definite, and this is a commitment, is that they will be held in 1983.

[Question] When will the month for elections be disclosed?

[Answer] I repeat what I stated a few minutes ago. We believe that we have a good chance of also reaching a consensus soon, I do not know when exactly, on the month for election. But in this regard the technical aspect has great influence.

[Question] Mr President, will talks with the political leadership continue in order to establish the month for elections or will it just be set by the government?

[Answer] No, no. Contacts with the national political leadership have been established and will continue at the pace which they have been held at all times. As you are well aware the Argentine political leadership continues maintaining that dialogue with the government is always open and I can guarantee that it is so, especially with the Interior Ministry and the president of the nation.

[Question] Mr President, has this decision of the government of the armed forces been made with the full support of the three forces?

[Answer] Yes, of course. I have already stated that the government made this decision with the support of the armed forces. I have discussed this subject with the members of the military junta and we have agreed on it.

[Question] Will the military junta of the president of the republic set this date?

[Answer] No, no, the national government is responsible for setting this date. I have already explained that the national government, naturally, is clearly aware that it exercises a mandate granted by a higher authority. Regarding these issues of great importance I remain in constant contact with the military junta always seeking the best solution to the national problems which arise.

[Question] Do you have any special comment to make on the multiparty group meeting scheduled for 16 December?

[Answer] We are following the development of the 16 December meeting closely. As the multiparty group has stated and the Argentine people demonstrated, we hope, believe and are certain that it will be a peaceful, calm demonstration, a political demonstration which will consolidate and support the institutionalization process in which we are all engaged, because I believe that institutionalization is our common objective. I cannot by any means, believe that the multiparty group is not at all interested in supporting that process and that it is willing to disrupt it.

I want to point out that this decision to hold elections in 1983 is a commitment and I want to point this out because sometimes setting an electoral date seems very vague. We are determined that the elections will be absolutely free and fair and will leave no doubts for the Argentine future.

I will now answer your questions regarding the strikes. I find it a bit difficult to give an opinion on this subject but do not hesitate in saying that these strikes undoubtedly do not contribute toward achieving our objective. The national government has repeatedly shown its awareness of the needs and that it will gradually make provisions for those needs as it is able to. The government does what it can. It does not promise more than it can cope with and does what it can. Without going on at length on this issue, because I am sure that the political leaders know why they are going on strike, that they have thought it over thoroughly before going on strike, I would like to point out that one sector of the Argentine labor union leadership is organizing a meeting allegedly because the government, during the normalization process of the labor unions, demonstrated favoritism, proclivity, toward another sector. At the same time another sector of the labor union movement calls for a general strike in the country, also accusing the government of not having fulfilled certain promises or issues related to this sector. If there is anything more I can contribute in this regard it is my call for everyone to reflect, to clearly establish where we are heading, what we want. The institutionalization of the country is our goal, what we want, but it must be sought with order, in peace, with certainty, with confidence in the future, with a sound basis for the future. The government alone cannot do this so I think that all the sectors have to contribute as they can to achieve this goal.

[Question] General, the British defense undersecretary has recently stated that Argentina has not said anything about the charges that bodies remained unburied on the Malvinas because the Argentine Government has not yet made a decision in this regard. Could you give us some information about this?

[Answer] No. This is a subject which was mentioned by the defense under-secretary and is being analyzed by the joint staff chief and I have no information to disclose for the time being.

[Question] Mr President, the Bolivian Government has requested the extradition of General Garcia Meza. What is the Argentine position in this regard?

[Answer] As far as I know we have not received a request for extradition of General Garcia Meza nor a request for asylum. We do have a request for asylum of Colonel Arce Gomez, which the national government is studying.

[Question] Thank you very much Mr President, you are very kind.

[Answer] Thank you.

CSO: 3348/324

AIR FORCE ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS, ASSIGNMENTS

PY301838 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 27 Nov 82 p 14

[Text] The air force has made public promotions and assignments in its high echelons that will become effective on 30 November and 3 December. However, the military aviation school director will only take over on 14 December.

Brigadier General Horacio Crespo, who was said to be the author of a critical document, has been appointed joint staff chief in the air operations command.

Effective 31 December 1982 the following brigadier generals will be promoted to the rank of major general: Jose Maria Insua, Alfredo Ramon Berastegui, Teodoro Guillermo Waldner, Hector Rene Roy and David Eduardo Alcides Glosa.

Effective 31 December, the following colonels will be promoted to brigadier general: Edsel Oscar Martinez Viademonte, Enrique Hugo Ventura, Nelsis Natalio Rodoni, Juan Jose Ahets Echeverry, Jose Angel Gutierrez, Roberto Augusto Ventura, Julio Cesar Santuccion, Nestor Royo, Hector Eduardo Ruiz, Luis Rafael Barreira, Jorge Pedro Garcia, Norberto Rosso and Ernesto Antes.

The following appointments were made:

In the air force joint staff:

Chief of aeronautics interests	Brig Gen Vion Carlos Yocca
Chief of intelligence	Col Julio Santuccion
Medical service director	Col Aldo Rene Gerlero
Chief of operations	Col Enrique Hugo Ventura

In air operations command:

Joint staff chief	Brig Gen Ernesto Crespo
4th Air Brigade commander	Brig Gen Carlos de Brasis
2d Air Brigade commander	Col Edsel Martinez Viademonte
7th Air Brigade commander	Col Oscar Gonzalez
5th Air Brigade commander	Col Jose Gutierrez
9th Air Brigade commander	Col Ruben Cortes
3d Air Brigade commander	Col Ivar Cotel
Commander of air base at Rio Gallegos	Col Juan Ocrea

In the air defense command:

Joint staff chief	Brig Gen Roberto Cambor
7th Brigade Commander	Col Nelsis Rodoni
8th Brigade Commander	Col Juan Ahets Etcheverry

In the training command:

Director of military aviation school	Brig Roberto Ventura
Director of superior air war college	Col Edgardo Caceres

In the material command:

Joint staff chief	Brig Gen Jose Gonzalez
Director material procurement and administration	Brig Gen Andres Alvariscueta
Material area commander at Rio Cuarto	Col Luis Barreira
Production director general	Col Jorge Garcia

In the air regions command:

Joint staff chief	Brig Gen Rodolfo Arens
Infrastructure director general	Col Donato Beccio

Brigadier General Hector Cocito, and colonels Nestor Royo, Hector Ruiz and Norberto Rosso will continue to serve on special assignment.

CSO: 3348/324

EDITORIAL QUESTIONS JUNTA-PROPOSED ACCORD

PY301426 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Questionable Accord"]

[Excerpts] From the moment the authorities brought up the idea of an "accord" as a possible remedy at this difficult political juncture, we have contended that the only possible "accord" among the Argentines consists in the strict respect for our Constitution. Its provisions reflect in an unequivocal manner the agreement of the citizenry on essential aspect of the nation's management.

We stress that point in view of the call recently made by the military junta to work out an accord on questions of real public interest with the nation's representative sectors. Both the form in which the call was prepared and the content of its proposals elicit well-founded and severe objections.

It should be noted in the first place that the so-called accord is not a proposal to guarantee a stable democracy in the future as could be inferred from the way the call is worded. It will be at best an arrangement if the civilian sectors to which the call is addressed agree to abide by it. In the second place, attention should be given to the equivocal and even apparently contradictory manner in which the proposal is written. It says that the nonacceptance of the proposal will have no bearing on the continuation of the process of restoring the institutions on the one hand, and on the other hand that national discord stemming from the confrontation of sectors will be the unavoidable result of rejecting the accord.

We strongly disagree with such a manichean and childish proposition. Genuine democracy cannot arise from prearranged agreements intended to work as crutches, which in the last analysis only serve to distort it.

It has not been made sufficiently clear to whom the call is directed. A general reference is made to "the nation's representative sectors," but such an all-inclusive reference lends itself to serious confusion. The call should have been specifically to the political parties, which are the natural depositories of the country's general interests interpreted in accordance with their programmatic platforms, and whose leaders will be the eventual holders of public power. However, without excluding them, the function of the political parties is downgraded by comparing them to other opinion groups which, because of their sectorial or corporative nature, are only representative of narrow-based organizations.

There are enough reasons to think that the proposed accord is intended to hide the government's attempt at sharing responsibility on some controversial aspects of its actions with those who may eventually come to power. Should it be so, the attempt is not only unacceptable but it is doomed to failure. Any authority must fully assume the consequences of its actions without trying to hedge itself with agreements or understandings with its possible successors. In questions such as the Malvinas war and missing persons, the only proper thing to do is to give explanations and make clarifications. None of these questions will be cleared up through a prearranged accord that will only implicate those who misguidedly accept it.

The last point on such a variegated accord as the one proposed makes no sense. It has to do with the "constitutional presence of the armed forces in the next constitutional government." Their role is perfectly defined by the constitution, which invests the nation's president with the authority of commander in chief. If the intention is to modify or reform that or any other constitutional provision, we are faced with a proposal to violate the constitution through an unconceivable accord between the government and civilian sectors, an accord for which there is no legitimate support. Therefore, one cannot understand just exactly what is the objective of this strange point, which is included among others on which an accord is sought. Incidentally, this point was tacked on the end of the variegated list of questions in the proposed accord, maybe in a calculated way.

The least that can be asked for in the critical circumstances the country is experiencing is that the public power speak with clarity. No contribution to that necessary clarity is made with the questionable document we have analyzed.

CSO: 3348/324

COMMENTARY ON REPERCUSSIONS OF ACCORD OFFER

PY272207 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 18 Nov 82 p 8

[From the "National Politics" column: "Options After the Turndown"]

[Excerpt] The air turbulence which caught the accord following its explicit turndown by the multiparty group caused the weakened structure of military power to creak.

In recent hours signals of uneasiness and disgust have come from all corners of the armed forces apparatus in the wake of the politicians' reaction to the military overture.

Besides this, what none of the military spokesmen who were consulted could say is what political shape those signals would take or what course the accord operation launched last week by the military junta may take.

The perplexity reflected by the initial reactions of the military is obvious. Although the text of the accord proposed by the junta discreetly anticipated the difficulties the civilian sectors might have getting in tune with it, the armed forces obviously did not expect such a firm rejection.

The worst from the standpoint of the armed forces may be the discredit suffered by the commanders who signed the accord proposal.

The government of General Bignone, which was charged with implementing the accord, may appear to have been dealt a blow by the attitude of the political leaders. It must be noted, however, that the attitude had jelled even before the executive branch initiated the practical facet of negotiations.

Had failure been met after weeks of actual attempts to make headway with negotiations, it would have been easier perhaps to blame the failure on the inability of the official negotiators. But the turndown came even sooner, with the overt intention of questioning the very substance of the proposal.

In view of the situation so created, the military faces, at least in theory, this option: it either persists in the search for a reasonable way to bring about the institutionalization of the country, or it regroups, even precariously, its ranks with the objective of continuing to exercise the monopoly of political power for an undetermined period of time.

The first alternative would call for an indepth review of the criteria which were followed in the preparation of the commanders' last proposal, and maybe also for a gesture of modesty on the part of the current protagonists or of new ones to moderate the military demands.

The second alternative falls in the areas of the unpredictable. This is the area which is appropriate for political adventurers who are always willing to offer plans and suggestions to perplexed military officers who are the ones easily inclined toward authoritarianism and to the continuous uncovering of conspiracies and destabilizing campaigns.

CSO: 3348/324

RECONCILIATION EFFORTS VIEWED WITH SKEPTICISM

PY302115 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Nov 82 pp 1, 4

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "Out of the Depths"]

[Excerpts] Will the regime and the civilian sector now be able to carry out the process to reach an accord or, as some prefer to call it, a "dialogue" even with the secret instructions which the junta has allegedly submitted to the president? Do the members of the two parties at least agree on how to tackle the very serious problems which the country is enduring so that the "dialogue" will only have to concentrate on reconciling two large groups with different points of view? How much longer will Argentina have to--or be able to--live in the current uncertainty of either reaching an agreement or engaging in a civil war?

According to the following information the answer to these questions, for the time being, is not very reassuring.

1. Almost at the last minute President Bignone allegedly refused to start the process aimed at an "accord." According to our sources, only 20 days ago he believed that the "dialogue" or attempt to reach an agreement would only be feasible in 1983, once the "internal" party elections had been carried out and he allegedly voiced this opinion to several retired officers.
2. Neither had General Nicolaides allegedly ordered any plan or opinion in this regard by mid or late October. The idea of an "accord" (at least with regards to the armed forces) came, almost exclusively from the navy and air force, to the point that when Nicolaides' comrades in arms explained the idea to him he had allegedly only said that he would "study it" since he had not "analyzed the subject" up to that moment.

In the midst of this chaos--which for the time being fortunately is only dialectical--the alleged underground military groups, who support a "complete clearing," strengthen the uncertainty over the course which the "accord" will take even more. However, it seems that the military authorities are trying to break these groups up. Yesterday, well informed circles told us one of the most important groups, the "white sabers" had managed to be broken up. We were told that this group is made up of lieutenant generals, several colonels

and even some brigadier generals who follow the ideology of the political advisor of one of the forces (?), our sources added that "the retirements to be announced at the end of the year will represent the end of the 'white sabers.'" At the same time a retired general assured us that a strict "surveillance" had been placed on the members of the higher echelons and that even the telephones of several brigadier generals were being tapped. The source added that as a consequence their talks with their active comrades in arms had decreased substantially. Those who consider the "white sabers" and other similar groups a threat to the "accord" and the electoral process believe the government's offensive against its "dissident" members to be auspicious. They have the same opinion of Msgr Aramburu's statements in Rome which, in their opinion, "shows that the church will not go along with authoritarianism but will support the accord." We will see what happens.

Issues such as the "investigation of illegal deals" and of Yacyreta (we presume that the latter does not refer to the development of the project, which the great majority support, but to its obscure financial past) are mentioned in the junta's "guidelines for an agreement." Does this also mean reaching an "agreement?" To put it mildly, this is an exaggeration, especially taking into account that in certain cases justice has begun to function (attorney Dibut, for example, will allegedly order the opening of some striking trials shortly and probably even some preventive imprisonments). A U.S. State Department official visited Buenos Aires in the past few days and said that he believes elections will finally be held. But, will we be able to recover the state of law before the nation recovers the state of conscience?

CSO: 3348/324

PRIVATE SECTOR ATTACKS ECONOMIC MEASURES

Commentary on Criticism

PY251647 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0003 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Report by Juan Javier Zeballos]

[Text] La Paz, 24 Nov (LATIN-REUTER)--Private enterprise representatives charged here today that the economic measures in Bolivia tend to place obstacles in the way of the country's recovery and progress. They demanded a policy of economic freedom.

The charge is contained in an extensive document that was released by the Confederation of Private Businessmen of Bolivia. The document maintains that Hernan Siles Zuazo's government has blinded the working class with the lure of a policy of freedom that up to the present time has not emerged.

It also accuses the government of having crippled the economy, of reigning in private enterprises and of limiting the social development to which the working class has a right.

The economic measures that were implemented 18 days ago are transitory, incomplete, are not consistent and they have had the effect of a dangerous shock [given in English] therapy that could have doubtful results if other basic measures are not quickly adopted in order to save the country from a deepening of the crisis, the document adds.

The harsh criticism of private enterprise also attacks the measures as a whole, although it does not indicate how they could provoke a paralysis in development.

It states that the economic measures point to an institutionalization of state control of the activities of the private economic sector and it clearly terms this model as interventionist, something that in the past has provoked the paralyzation of overall development.

The confederation warns that following this path instead of encouraging an economy in crisis will place obstacles on the road to recover and progress.

All the apparent leaning toward popular interests, tinged with colorful words and revolutionary and ideological rhetoric, has only produced frustrating results for the interests of the workers, the document adds.

It also recalls the failure of state enterprises and it warns that private enterprise is against any adventure that will place the productive and services sectors in the hands of the state.

Thus, the document alludes to the government's decision to nationalize the Bolivian Electric Energy Company, which belongs to Canadian and U.S. interests.

The nationalization of this enterprise is being studied by congress, after the government agreed in principle with the company to pay it \$47 million as indemnization.

Private enterprise maintains that an exaggerated large proportion of the economy is under state control and it fears that in the end there will be a tendency to "comobilize" [comibolizar] even more of the Bolivian economy.

Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] controls all the mines that were nationalized in 1952 by the then revolutionary and nationalist government and currently it is considered an enterprise that finds itself in a very serious economic crisis due to the bad administration that it has had.

Finance Minister's Rebuttal

PY251703 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Text] The finance minister has categorically denied the private sector's accusation that there is the intention to comibolize [comibolizar] the Bolivian economy and he added that Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] is still the mainstay of the economy.

Answering a document that has been released by the business sector, Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga also asserted that there is no intention of placing the economy in agony with private enterprises that are absolutely inefficient and that do not have any type of social or economic value.

He also stated that the report that has been submitted by that sector is unilateral and incomplete and he rejected it, terming it disparaging.

He made it clear that the government considers that this type of opinion is a continuation of the dialogue that the government means to expand, thus, he announced that on 9 December he will attend the seminar that has been organized by the Bolivian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Answering the questions of the press, the finance minister asserted that it is his opinion that it is suitable for each and every sector to give its opinion in this respect. It is a demonstration of the effectiveness of democracy and the government fully respects the rules of the game of democracy.

He also indicated that this is a path by which specific and everyday more useful ways can be found, when he referred to the dialogue that is being maintained with the various sectors throughout the country.

Referring specifically to the opinion of the private enterprise sector, Aranibar Quiroga made two observations:

The first one: Any type of criticism is good if it is accompanied by specific suggestions to support the criticism.

Private enterprise maintains that the measures that have been implemented are not consistent and that they must be complemented, he said when he indicated that the government is expecting the sector to provide the necessary complementary measures and modifications. Otherwise the contribution will be incomplete and unilateral and it will become a criticism that cannot be overcome, the minister asserted.

Referring to the second observation, the minister indicated: The second observation is related to a position that we cannot possibly share regarding the pejorative opinion that is given of Comibolizing the economy. We fully respect Comibol, as we do the conquests that have been obtained by the workers and Bolivia as a whole. We believe that the problems that Comibol is currently facing must not be used as a pretext to criticize the state's economic foundation.

He also indicated that that enterprise is the mainstay of our economy. We do not accept and we reject the pejorative opinion of Comibolizing the economy, he said.

He then stated that private enterprise is implicitly supporting the types of policies that the government is not going to adopt.

The minister stated that the first is to [word indistinct] the economy, which would have meant to continue with the economic policy of the sectors that are linked to illicit activities, speculation and those that violate the country's laws.

We are not going to do this and neither are we going to place the economy in agony, he stressed.

Finally, he explained that to Sheratonize [Sheratonizar, from Sheraton Hotel] the economy would mean supporting private investment that would be inefficient and which would have no social or economic value.

This is the finance minister's clarification regarding the position of private enterprise, which released its opinion regarding the emergency economic measures.

Private Banks' Charges

PY301629 Beunos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1634 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Report by Juan Javier Zeballos]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 25 Nov (LATIN-REUTER)--The private banking system has accused the Bolivian leftist government of adopting economic measures which threaten to lead the entire private banking system to bankruptcy, and warned that in view of this situation, the nationalization of the banks would be better.

The report was included in a document released here today by the National Association of Private Banks and Financial Institutions of Bolivia. This is the second attack by the private sector on the economic measures adopted by the government 19 days ago.

Yesterday, the Association of Bolivian Private Businessmen reported that these measures damage the national economy, restraining private enterprise and hindering the recovery and development of Bolivia, in addition to having frustrating results for workers' interests.

The private banks warned today against the illegal intention of breaking up the banking system, especially through the decree establishing currency control in the national economy. In view of this situation, we would prefer the nationalization (of the banks) through the Constitution, they added.

CSO: 3348/323

FINANCE MINISTER ON COUNTRY'S FOREIGN DEBT

PY240040 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Upon his return from the United States Finance Minister Ernesto Aranibar stated that he had told the foreign banking sector that Bolivia is not planning to settle any portion of its foreign debt until after the 100-day emergency period which it decreed on 6 November.

Aranibar pointed out that during the meeting he held with representatives of the foreign banks he clearly explained the state in which the democratic and popular unity government had inherited the country from previous administrations. On this occasion he also made it very clear that other and more important needs and priority issues which must be settled in the country will prevent Bolivia from paying its foreign debt before the aforementioned period is over.

The finance minister explained to the journalists about his meetings:

[begin Aranibar recording] In 100 days time we would submit the plan to reschedule our foreign debt to the foreign banks. This plan would be based on the fulfillment of our international commitments without jeopardizing any possibility for the economic recovery of our country. For this purpose we must postpone, at least temporarily for the period established by the government, the payment of our overdue debt services which now--and I want to make this clear because there are a lot of reports in this regard--amounts to \$49,398,000 and which will amount to approximately \$130,000,000 by 6 April 1983.

Overdue services on loans granted by other sources and governments amount to \$116,200,000. [end recording]

The minister then stated that an agreement was only reached the following day, after extremely [word indistinct] negotiations during which frank and sincere presentations and proposals were made in the interest of the country. This agreement establishes that the foreign private banking sector will hold another meeting in the course of the coming 2 months, before February, in order to answer the proposal made by the finance minister at the meeting. Minister Aranibar had pointed out that the Bolivian Government is willing to receive a dollar credit for the total amount of its overdue debt service in order to be able to reschedule its debt. Further on the minister stated:

[begin Aranibar recording] The country's total overdue debt service amounts to \$347,440,000. This amount is due on medium- and long-term loans, the rescheduled debt with the private banking sector and the short-term loans.
[end recording]

The minister pointed out that Bolivia's debt service in arrears with the foreign private banking sector currently amounts to \$49,398,000. However, he pointed out that this does not comprise the country's entire overdue debt service. In this regard he disclosed the following information: He pointed out that the first portion of the renegotiated loans with the foreign private banking sector is coming due on 6 April 1983, therefore Bolivia will continue paying installments on the rescheduled portion of the debt. The minister then said that the renegotiated debt with the foreign private banking sector amounts to (?\$301,474,000). This amount, he stated, is the debt rescheduled under the agreement which we have negotiated in the United States. The non-rescheduled debt with the foreign private banking sector amounts to (?\$631,021,000). He then pointed out that the servicing on this debt will start in April.

The finance minister pointed out that in general terms the result of the meetings he had with representatives of U.S. private banks has been positive for Bolivia.

CSO: 3348/323

SILES ZUAZO ON FOREIGN DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PY221247 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] The chief of state has indicated that the advantage of being a democratic country is important for a country's international policy. He indicated to Radio Illimani that in Bolivia's case, the new democratic process will help it to renegotiate its external debt.

The chief of state made the following remarks on the upcoming discussions for renegotiating the country's debt with international banks, especially U.S. banks:

[Begin Siles Zuazo recording] The advantage of having a democratic government will always permit flexibility in the discussions or renegotiating the foreign debt. [end recording]

He then announced that there is the prospect of Bolivia obtaining an extension of the deadlines of its external debt. In this respect, Dr Hernan Siles Zuazo said the following:

[begin Siles Zuazo recording] We have the prospect of deferring the deadlines of our obligations and there is the possibility that the same thing may happen, at the continental level, for all countries that have debts. [end recording]

The Bolivian President then said that the largest countries in South America, such as Argentina and Brazil, have foreign debts that run into the millions.

This situation, according to Siles Zuazo, gives Bolivia the possibility of undertaking more flexible negotiations.

Siles Zuazo made these remarks to Radio Illimani last Saturday when he attended the (?graduation ceremony) of 68 cadets of the National Police Academy.

CSO: 3348/323

REPORTAGE ON DECEMBER ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

New Objective

PY181917 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Nov 82 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia, (O GLOBO)--Admiral Mucio Piragibe Bakker, secretary of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Maritime Resources [Commissao Inter-ministerial de Recursos do Mar--CIRM] has stated that "the Brazilian Antarctic program is still alive, including the sub-Antarctic expedition to be made by the oceanographic ship Professor Besnard, of the University of Sao Paulo."

The CIRM revealed yesterday the new objective of the program, which will be the establishment in the Antarctic of a new of satellite earth stations on the polar orbit. The project will be studied by the National Antarctic Affairs Commission this month at a meeting to be held at Itamaraty.

The CIRM secretary stated that the sub-commission which prepared the Antarctic project will be abolished because it has fulfilled its task. He added that the organization continues with the study to create the National Institute for Maritime Studies which could be delegated with, among other tasks, the project of surveying the Brazilian continental shelf.

December Antarctic Expedition

PY261313 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] By the end of the year and in keeping with a national program, Brazil will be in the Antarctic community, but without having any territorial aspirations.

This statement was made by Rear Adm (Prucio Piragepe Baker), secretary of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Human Resources, during a ceremony in which [Sao Paulo Governor] Jose Maria Marin handed him 80 million cruzeiros as a contribution offered by the Sao Paulo state government.

According to Rear Admiral (Piragepe Baker), Brazil wants to actively participate in the destiny of the Antarctic and in the revision of the treaty in 1991.

Rear Adm (Miltos Rivero Carbalho), chairman of the Sao Paulo Navy Commission, said that the navy is merely fulfilling a coordinating role in the mission since it acquired the Barao de Teffe ship and the [word indistinct] which will carry out the first Brazilian expedition to the Antarctic scheduled for 20 December.

During this trip, several scientific experiments will be carried out but also a medical team will study the behavior of Brazilian personnel in the Antarctic and their adaptation to the region.

CSO: 3342/39

COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

SOVIET-MADE WOOD HYDROLYZERS--Coalbra [Brazilian Alcohol Coke Company], which is subordinate to the agriculture minister, will begin to distribute Soviet-made wood hydrolyzers as part of the program for the production of alcohols from wood. [PY270205 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Nov 82 PY]

CSO: 3342/39

CONSERVATIVE LEADER BACKS 'FISCAL AMNESTY' FOR DRUG MONEY

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 9

[Text] "I am convinced that if this money is brought into the economy as proposed by Fabio Echeverri, the president of ANDI [National Industrialists Association], Colombia's economy will receive a strong impetus which will start up the process of recovery which the government is seeking."

Carlos Holguin Sardi, the president of the Conservative National Directorate (DNC), announced his complete support for a fiscal amnesty for money from cocaine, marihuana and the underground economy, as proposed by the justice minister, Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha.

Holguin Sardi, who became president of DNC last week, spoke on Caracol Cali's program "Five Reporters and the Valley Personality of the Week" to defend the government of President Belisario Betancur against critics, saying that in the present administration's first 60 days in office it has brought about the greatest change of mentality Colombia has seen in recent times.

"This is a change which goes much deeper than building 5 kilometers of a road," Holguin Sardi said. The party leader went on record in favor of financial controls and the president's policies in general, also announcing in passing a proposal to the government for control of economic groups.

"In Colombian politics there is too much hypocrisy," the DNC leader said. He warned that letters of recommendation from party officials "should be taken into consideration for government hiring, but do not entitle anyone to a post. Instead, these letters are a fundamental requirement for entry into public service."

DNC president Carlos Holguin Sardi said that charges of massive firings of employees in various agencies are a smokescreen to hide the facts about the bureaucratic composition of public agencies. Holguin Sardi stated that conservatives do not even have 40 percent of government jobs as President Turbay Ayala had claimed was the case during his administration.

Fiscal Amnesty

The DNC president said that Colombia's difficult financial situation could be overcome through fiscal amnesty. He said, "I believe it is proper; I believe that it is a national necessity."

"This was the topic of the Senate Third Committee during the week now ending and we shall be talking about it again on Wednesday with the finance minister, Edgar Gutierrez Castro," he said. "However, there have been a number of suggestions in this regard. My suggestion deals directly with authorizing the national government to issue public indebtedness bonds totalling 100 billion pesos. Persons who buy these bonds would receive an inheritable amnesty from the need to report the money on their declarations of income for the present year, and they would be able to incorporate into their accounting the funds invested in such bonds," according to the DNC president.

Carlos Holguin Sardi, a senator from Cauca Valley, noted that the measure would allow money circulating in the underground economy to surface and serve the purpose of financing the fiscal deficit of 100 billion pesos.

He added, "With these bonds the government would have a period of 5 or 6 years to pay off the bond, since it is not a loan but a debt."

11,989

CSO: 3348/63

ATTENDANCE AT CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTH CONGRESS

UJC Delegation Visit

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 30 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Elsa Clara]

[Text] A few hours before the departure for Prague of the Cuban delegation which will attend the Third Congress of the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youth [SSM] we interviewed Jose Ramon Rodriguez, a member of the National Committee of the UJC [Union of Young Communists of Cuba]. The first secretary of the UJC is Carlos Lage.

This major event of the Czechoslovak youth organization, which will also be attended by Jose M. Puentes, a member of the National Bureau of the UJC, will take place between 1 and 3 October, with many delegations in attendance from friendly countries, including our country.

In the conversation we had with Jose Ramon Rodriguez he referred to the close ties existing between the two youth organizations and which have been reflected in friendly meetings in Cuba in 1975, in Czechoslovakia in 1977, and in Camaguey in 1980. Of no less importance was the attendance by the USJCH at the Eleventh World Festival of Youth, held in Havana during the summer of 1978.

Rodriguez said: "The high level of our relations was shown in the exchanges of cultural, producing, and other youth groups." He added: "Czechoslovak youth technical brigades have worked in Cuba in the thermal electricity generating plants in Nuevitas and Mariel and at the Rene R. Latour nickel smelter."

For its part the UJC has sent brigades of Cuban construction workers who have participated in high priority work [obras de choque] in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Rodriguez added.

Another connection between the UJC and the SSM is in the framework of international organizations, in particular the IUS [International Union of Students] and the WFDY [World Federation of Democratic Youth], where Cuba and Czechoslovakia hold positions in the leadership. In these forums there is a close similarity of views between the two countries and the two youth organizations regarding global problems of the greatest interest.

"The struggle for detente and peace and against the arms race are aspects of our relations in which the strength and the opinions of Cuban and Czechoslovak youth are united, together with other, fraternal voices represented there," Rodriguez pointed out.

He added that other meetings, like the Helsinki International Conference, to give one example, serve as action platforms for world peace, within which the youth organizations of the socialist countries--in this case the USJCH and the UJC--participate actively together, in search of those high priority objectives for all progressive groups in the world.

The Third Congress, Rodriguez stated, should also serve as a platform for this commitment to humanity and the coming generations in its desire to provide them with assurances that they will live, banishing the danger of war which threatens both the present as well as the future.

The president of the Central Committee of the SSM, Jaroslav Jeneral, attended the Fourth Congress of the UJC which was held in April at the head of invited guests from his country. That was an opportunity for new, friendly contacts and a consequent exchange of experiences between the two organizations.

Similar meetings should take place in connection with the attendance at the congress of Czechoslovak youth by the Cuban group. The Czechoslovak political group at present has 1.6 million young men and women from 15 to 30 years of age, vigorously united to the Communist Party, which finds in this vanguard group the enthusiasm and energy necessary for the development of the fraternal, Central European country.

Czechoslovak Youth Leader Interviewed

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 30 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Gustavo Ulacia]

[Text] This Friday [1 October] the Third Congress of the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youth [SSM] will open in the Palace of Culture in Prague, an event in which 1,236 delegates will participate, representing 1,620,000 members of the USJCH and 1.5 million pioneers from this beautiful, Central European country.

Jaroslav Jeneral, first secretary of the Central Committee of the SSM, agreed to meet with a representative of JUVENTUD REBELDE on this important meeting.

He said: "This congress differs from the last meeting in many ways. In the first place it will be a congress without formalities, there will be broad participation by high-ranking figures of the Communist Party, of the state, of the National Front, and of mass organizations. We will discuss directly the problems which we will have to face in the next few years, which are closely linked to the development of the economy and the ideological progress of young people. It will be a very active congress.

"All reports have been prepared in a critical, demanding, but also optimistic spirit. We are optimistic about it because we have held 55,000 meetings of our lowest level committees, following which other meetings were held at the city and provincial level, and then in the two republics making up Czechoslovakia. On the basis of an analysis of the results of these meetings, it is evident that we can go forward on a very firm footing.

"A few months ago I had the honor of leading the SSM delegation to the Fourth Congress of the UJC. There I felt very much at home, among friends. The Cuban youth congress was an inspiration for me in terms of the organization and themes of our own congress.

"When we called this Third Congress a few months ago, the 55,000 basic unit committees of the SSM reacted very positively. The congress is directed at supporting the completion of the Seventh Five-Year Plan and the electoral programs of the National Front. All of the preparations have been completed in the great majority of the basic unit committees.

"One of the principal aspects which our young people took on was performing the very demanding tasks faced by our national economy in terms of production and productivity.

"An element which I don't want to fail to mention is the summer activities of secondary school and university students. In two periods of 3 weeks each more than 110,000 secondary school students and more than 40,000 university students took part. The pioneers also did an outstanding job in preparing the 4,500 rest camps for 150,000 children, where, in addition to their usual tasks, they performed socially useful work, such as picking medicinal plants or improving the surroundings."

He said that one important aspect of the meeting is that the congress will concentrate its attention on the concrete, daily participation of youth in the performance of tasks set out in the Seventh Five-Year Plan of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, as well as in the field of defense, in scientific and technical progress, and in the development of scientific and technical awareness.

Furthermore, he said, the congress will also concentrate on actively participating in the struggle for world peace, social progress, the strengthening of friendship with the youth of all socialist countries, and the development of cooperation with all youth and progressive organizations throughout the world.

He was asked how the congress saw the future tasks of youth. He replied that it would seek to lead young people into concrete and direct participation in the completion of the tasks set forth in the Seventh Five-Year Plan in all work places and particularly at the points which are decisive for the growth of national income.

The congress would concentrate our mass political work on keeping the socialist awareness of the next generation.

The congress will seek to increase the participation of the USJCH in socialist democracy, in cooperation with the government, and to create conditions for a greater degree of decisionmaking by young people regarding public questions.

The congress will support the foreign political line of the Sixteenth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, defend the principles of the party in the international progressive youth movement, and contribute to the education of the coming generations in the spirit of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

Before concluding the conversation comrade Jaroslav Jeneral referred to the close relations between the SSM and the UJC. He said that the basis of the relations between our organizations was to be found in Marxist-Leninist principles and in the repudiation of all signs of imperialist interference in Cuba.

He said that the results achieved by the Cuban people and the young people of Cuba are a source of admiration for us. The model for the relations between the SSM and the UJC is the close ties which exist between the Communist Party of Cuba and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, between comrades Fidel Castro and Gustav Husak.

He said that in our minds the image of Cuba as seen during the XI World Festival of Youth and Students is firmly rooted. The happiness and the internationalist spirit evident there displayed to all of the visitors and to our Czechoslovak youth the combative spirit of socialist and internationalist Cuba.

He said that we have agreements for cooperation over the long term. One of these agreements contemplates work in our factories by thousands of Cuban young people, who will increase and develop their qualifications in our plants. The SSM is seeking to arrange to have Cuban youth participate in SSM activities through their respective factories and enterprises.

He concluded that in general we intend to ensure that our relations will go very well, will be truly multilateral, and will contribute to enriching our work, our knowledge of both countries and of the youth in both countries. We are working, therefore, in a common effort for the building of a better society.

5170

CSO: 3248/199

ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH THIRD WORLD NOTED

Havana ECONOMIA Y DESARROLLO in Spanish May-Jun 82, No 68, pp 26-43

[Article by Julio A. Diaz Vazquez, Cuban economist, scientific collaborator at the CEMA International Institute for Economic Problems of the World Socialist System]

[Text] The opportunities for economic, scientific and technical cooperation by CEMA members with developing countries constantly increase. It suffices to point out that between 1950 and 1978 trade between CEMA members and the developing countries became more than 32 times larger. CEMA countries now provide economic and technological aid to 90 "Third World" countries; in 1962, there were only 34. In 1979, more than 100 long-term economic and technical cooperation agreements were signed with 39 developing countries. The value of the cooperation was almost 10 times greater. With aid from the member countries of CEMA, more than 4,400 industrial projects have been constructed, are being constructed or are planned and more than 3,000 of these are already in operation.

Cuba is a member of CEMA involved in an economic transformation process to eliminate underdevelopment and the deformations of its economy, the legacy of the colonial and neocolonial relations that the country endured. It is the recipient of solidarity support from CEMA members, especially the USSR. It, in turn, participates more actively each day in the economic, scientific and technical ties and aid that the CEMA countries offer other developing countries. In this article we want to refer briefly to this last aspect, Cuba's economic cooperation and aid to other developing countries.

If it were necessary to justify the internationalist calling of the Cubans, we would have to explain that internationalism, in addition to being a basic principle of Marxist-Leninist ideology, has been a tradition in Cuba since the fight for independence when soldiers from different countries were fighting next to the Cubans. The program of the Cuban Revolutionary Party founded by our National Hero, Jose Marti, proclaimed the independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico as equally important objectives. For the immense majority of the Cubans, it is an indispensable duty to be an internationalist due to the simple fact that they know they are protagonists of a revolution that has survived because of socialist internationalism.

Cuba's economic, scientific and technical collaboration with other developing countries began with the revolutionary victory. This cooperation and aid is expressed in many ways through specialists, scholarships, training and the exchange of documentation, experiences and visits.

At present, about 25,000 Cuban technicians with different specialties--more than 5,000 in public health and education alone--provide services in approximately 35 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Practically all the economic and social sectors in the country send workers abroad.

The public health sector is a good example of Cuban cooperation with other developing countries. It sends missions that include different specialties to provide services in preventive, educational and health activities. At this time, more than 2,000 health specialists and technicians work abroad. They are developing intensive work in mass vaccinations against diseases like tetanus, diphtheria, cholera, tuberculosis, etc. At the same time specialists in general medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, traumatology, etc., directly attend to the people.

The aid has also extended to training professionals in this field. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, with the aid of Cuban professors and doctors, has established a medical school. This is also being done now in Ethiopia. It is necessary to emphasize that Cuban workers are not concentrated in large hospitals and cities. To the contrary, they provide services in the most remote regions, in forests and deserts and areas that never had these health services before. There is cooperation in the health sector in the following countries: Angola, Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Polisario Front--Saharan Republic--Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Iraq, Jamaica, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Nicaragua.

Cuba collaborates with more than 10 developing countries in the construction sector. This year between 15,000 and 20,000 Cuban internationalist workers offer their contributions to erect social and industrial projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Cooperation in this important sector includes technical research, work plans, production of materials and prefabricated parts, territorial and structural organization of construction enterprises and the planning and construction of microdams, bridges, highways, schools, agricultural and livestock projects and hospitals.

Cuba's growing ties in recent years with other developing countries also include cadre training through scholarships and training which increase the professional level and qualifications of the students from these countries. At this time, more than 8,000 foreign scholarship students study in primary and secondary schools, technological institutes and universities in Cuba in specialties like medicine, economics, architecture, engineering, agricultural and livestock sciences, construction of machinery and energy. Approximately 2,000 specialists from 26 countries receive training in production, research and educational centers through existing cooperation agreements.

The aid that Cuba has provided and now provides includes aid in the educational sector. About 3,000 education workers are in more than 11 countries in

Africa and Latin America providing advice for the development of literacy programs and teachers in different specialties of general, technological, agricultural and livestock and industrial education at the intermediate and advanced level. This includes language teaching and adult education. One significant example in this field is the Cuban educators' contribution to the literacy campaigns in Angola and Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, 2,000 Cuban teachers are participating in the fight to end illiteracy.

A brief country-by-country summary of Cuban cooperation and collaboration with other developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America follows.

Algeria

Collaboration in fishing, health, agriculture, light industry, advanced education, scientific research and sports is being promoted and developed. In the construction sector, relations have expanded by including Cuban aid to urban development, agricultural and livestock, housing and hydraulic projects among others. At the same time, there are trade agreements on the reciprocal supply of different products which foresees expanded trade.

Angola

Cuba's aid and collaboration in Angola plays an important role in every aspect of the economic life of that country. In the construction sector, 14 major bridges were built or planned and built. In Luanda, 60 housing projects, 3 urban development projects which included 25 buildings, were completed. By the end of last year, 95 social projects, 35 school projects, 6 industrial projects, 2 agricultural and livestock projects and 37 housing projects had been completed and 112 other projects were carried out. More than 3,400 Cuban construction workers are now working on all the social and industrial projects that the country is undertaking through Cuban aid. In Luanda, 2,000 housing units are being built using the Cuban "E-15" prefabricated system. The work to expand the aqueduct in the city based on a plan by Cuban specialists was completed. This project required the construction of two distribution centers that make it possible to provide an uninterrupted supply of 140,000 cubic meters of water to Luanda. In different provinces of the country, projects to build another 1,700 housing units similar to the above are being carried out. Also a mosaic factory in Huila, a stone mill in Bie and a meat-packing plant in Denaprove are being constructed. In Luanda they are working on paving 100,000 square meters of the loading and unloading zone of the port and a ceramic plant is being constructed.

There are also projects to erect two very important industrial centers in the country: a textile complex with the capacity to produce 16.5 million square meters of fabric annually and capital repairs on a paper factory, the only one of its type in Africa, that produces paper pulp from cellulose obtained from the eucalyptus tree. It has an annual production of 140,000 metric tons of pulp of which 60 percent is exportable. Also Cuban cooperation has facilitated the start-up of sugar mills, factories for the production of fats and oils, cardboard, wine and whiskey and a corn mill.

Cuba contributes to the development of the Angolan fishing sector through technical aid for the repair and modernization of ships, expansion of the fishing fleet and the improvement and expansion of the refrigerated network as well as the training of technicians and specialists and scientific research in this branch. The collaboration that Cuba has offered Angola in public health and education is still important. More than 800 health workers--doctors, nurses and technicians--provide services in 17 provinces of that country. The Cuban specialists see millions of patients and are developing an active preventive campaign against diseases and epidemics.

Lastly, we cannot fail to mention education as part of the aid that Cuba has offered and offers to Angola today. A contingent that eventually included more than 700 youths worked for more than a year in the country's great literacy campaign in 1978 and 1979. At the same time, thousands of Angolan youths are being trained in Cuba as skilled workers, technicians and professionals.

Guinea-Conakry

The People's Republic of Guinea and Cuba have increased and strengthened bilateral cooperation during the past 20 years. This aid covers the sectors of health, agriculture, sports, education, fishing and construction and includes technical aid, scholarships, cadre training and exchange of technical documentation and delegations. Another area of active collaboration between the two countries is construction. Cuban workers and technicians have built hundreds of kilometers of highways, two international airports, two important poultry centers and other social projects.

In addition to the medical assistance that Cuba has provided Guinea for years, several hundred Guinea technicians and professionals have been trained in Cuban educational centers in branches like medicine, veterinary science, different engineering specialties and, recently, nursery school personnel. Conditions are being established to increase Cuban participation in urban renewal projects by providing technicians and construction materials.

Benin

Since 1977 a medical brigade has provided service in this country. The relations and cooperation between these two countries are governed by an agreement signed in 1978 that covers education, fishing, livestock, domestic and foreign trade, labor and social security and the sugar industry. The collaboration also includes technical aid, scholarships and the exchange of delegations and information.

Burundi

A group of Cuban doctors and nurses now provide services in this African country. The first protocol for economic, scientific and technical collaboration between these two countries was recently signed. This document will extend cooperation to other sectors of the economy.

Ethiopia

Cuban aid to this country first materialized in 1977 through a brigade of health workers which included 300 doctors, technicians and nurses. They provide services in 11 of the 14 provinces of the country. The Intergovernmental Commission created in 1979 analyzes the main features of cooperation between the two countries. The protocols signed cover Cuban aid in the sectors of health, education, construction, veterinary services, aviculture, varied agricultural production, construction of microdams, work and wage organization, physical planning and other socioeconomic sectors.

Cuban technicians and workers are helping to erect a cement factory donated to Ethiopia by the GDR and install an electric line--80 kilometers--to supply energy to this industry. At the same time, the sugar sector receives aid from Cuban engineers while dozens of technicians are trained in Cuba in sugar production management.

Cuban construction workers are building a series of microdams for the development of the agricultural projects that the government is promoting. In the livestock branch, 200 prototypes of elite Cuban cattle valued at almost \$1 million were recently donated to Ethiopia. They will create the genetic base for Ethiopian livestock. At the same time, at Cuban advanced educational centers more than 300 doctors, veterinarians and engineers are being trained in different disciplines while more than 2,000 Ethiopian students study in primary and secondary schools.

With respect to the foreign trade sector, the necessary steps are being taken to increase trade between the two countries. Cuba will export agricultural implements, irrigation accessories, batteries and other articles to Ethiopia. An agreement has been signed for the establishment of air travel between the two countries.

Libya

Cooperation between these two countries includes different aspects in the sectors of trade, technical assistance, exchange of documentation and missions as well as training in health, construction, economics, foreign trade, agriculture, transportation, fishing, sports and the food industry. In the health sector, a contingent of more than 10 doctors and auxiliary personnel works in Libyan hospitals.

A large contingent of approximately 2,300 Cuban construction workers is undertaking social and infrastructure projects in Libya worth more than \$115 million. The projects under construction include 1,042 housing units--with an investment of 47 million pesos--buildings for public institutions, urban development zones, five schools with 100 classrooms--costing 7.3 million pesos--the completion of buildings that were being constructed by private enterprises, studies on hydraulic resources and the construction of dams. Construction work is being developed on two highways--53 million pesos--and other infrastructure and social projects. Agreements have been signed to form a Libyan-Cuban construction enterprise and to establish air travel.

Mozambique

Cooperation between Cuba and Mozambique has increased from year to year. The protocols signed cover a broad range of interests, concentrating basically on agriculture, the food industry, forestry development, education, construction, transportation, communications, sugar, fishing, the chemical sector, construction materials and public health. The technical collaboration provided by Cuban specialists for the reconstruction and operation of Mozambique industry has been significant.

More than 600 Cuban technicians work in different sectors of the economy, contributing their modest effort to the work to reconstruct and develop the country. About 1,700 Mozambique workers have received scholarships to increase their knowledge and specialization in 12 different economic sectors. Also 2,600 students study in Cuban schools.

Sao Tome and Principe

Cuba collaborates with this country in health, education, fishing, transportation, agriculture, sports and other specialties. At the request of the Sao Tomian Government, Cuban doctors and health technicians have been incorporated in the plans for massive free care for the people put into practice by this young country. In the construction sector, a contract has been signed to construct 1,300 housing units based on the Cuban "E-15" and "Sandino" models during the next 5 years.

Cuban specialists also offer their support in technical attention to transportation in the country, cadre training and organization of traffic for rational and effective exploitation. In the agricultural and livestock sector, a basic sector for development, Cuban aid has materialized in planning and control as well as the development of a national campaign to eradicate livestock diseases.

Cuba has donated fishing boats to this country and has helped organize a national fishing enterprise and marketing plans for the production of this industry. In the educational sector, Cuban cooperation has contributed to the opening of a school for arts and crafts through its teachers in different disciplines. It also collaborates in literacy projects. Training education, agricultural and livestock and sports specialists and technicians through direct advice and scholarships for study in Cuba is another form of Cuban assistance to this young African republic.

Cape Verde

Cuban assistance in health and education has been developing for several years. Recent agreements plan to expand this cooperation and also include the sectors of trade, transportation, cultural exchange and the training of Cape Verdian personnel at Cuban industrial and educational centers.

Tanzania

Cooperation with Tanzania has focused on the application of Cuban experiences in the educational sector. Cuba has constructed several rural schools based

on Cuban standards for intermediate education where students combine study and work. It also donated a "Giron" prefabricated parts plant, a construction technique used in this type of installation which has been developed by Cuban specialists. At the same time, groups of Tanzanian workers and youths receive training in Cuban schools for the educational and construction sectors.

Uganda

The first agreement for scientific and technical collaboration and the general conditions that will govern the development of collaboration between Cuba and Uganda was signed recently. Cooperation was initiated through a visit to Cuba by a high-level delegation headed by Paulo Muwanga, president of the Military Commission that governed this African country until Milton Obote became president. It can be foreseen that the agreement signed is only the beginning of growing relations between the peoples and governments of both countries.

Seychelles

Three protocols governing scientific and technical collaboration in public health, agriculture and education have been signed between Cuba and this young republic. These documents include the exchange of specialized missions, the training of personnel in Cuba, donations and the development of research.

The cooperation and assistance that Cuba gives other countries on the African continent include: livestock aid to the People's Republic of the Congo through the development of new breeds of cattle; technical assistance in communications, the donation of a prefabricated parts plant for housing construction and the training of skilled personnel in the development of aviculture in Guinea-Bissau; and, in addition to medical personnel in other countries like Mali, expanded collaboration in other branches and sectors of the economy.

In Nigeria there is collaboration in the development of the sugar industry. The first agreements were signed with Madagascar for the establishment of reciprocal trade and cooperation in the sugar, agricultural, educational and sports sectors. Since its proclamation, the Saharan Republic--Polisario Front--has received aid from a Cuban medical brigade to several refugee camps. The future independent Namibia is training a contingent of 600 students in Cuban schools.

Vietnam

About 800 Cuban workers in different specialties have offered their contributions for the reconstruction of this country. While still at war in 1968, Cuban assistance in public health began. The collaboration that has been gradually increasing covers different sectors of the economy including the agricultural and livestock sector, construction, fishing, public health, the sugar industry, science and technology, etc.

In the construction sector, the Cuban contribution includes projects for a 156-room hotel with all its service installations in Hanoi, 10 dairies, a poultry center, a highway more than 50 kilometers long and 12 meters wide and

a modern hospital complex of 10 buildings with the capacity for 450 beds, outpatient rooms, operating rooms, laboratories and X-ray rooms, nursing schools and other branches.

For years, Cuban technicians and specialists have contributed the necessary advice to Vietnamese workers in order to assimilate Cuban experiences in shrimp fishing. It has also given them ferroconcrete boats. At the same time, workers are being trained in the construction of this type of boat. Cuban agronomists and veterinarians have participated in the development of artificial insemination techniques and poultry production. The aid Cuba has given Vietnam includes training and scholarships to study different disciplines in Cuban educational centers.

India

For the first time an agreement has been signed to expand the economic, trade, scientific and technical relations between these two countries. In the trade sector, an agreement was signed to govern mutual exchanges of merchandise for 3 years, renewable each year after that date. India will supply Cuba with railway equipment and engines, telephone cable, looms, tires and chemical products. Cuba will export nickel, cement, construction materials and equipment for the Indian sugar industry.

Expansion of cooperation between these two countries in different sectors of the economy could mean the formation of joint enterprises in other countries, particularly in the sugar industry.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

By signing the corresponding protocol, Cuba provides collaboration to this country in transportation, fishing, agriculture, light industry, metal-mechanical sector, public health, education, etc. In the construction sector, the aid includes advice and construction of social projects.

The advice and direct aid offered by Cuba has included training specialized personnel for aviculture and livestock as well as the construction of poultry and cattle farms. The poultry industry created through this collaboration is one of the best in the Middle East.

Iraq

Collaboration between Cuba and Iraq has increased from year to year. The agreement that governs these relations includes agreements on the development of cooperation in fishing, construction, agriculture, industry and public health. The already broad exchange with Cuba in the health sector has also been improved. Doctors and other health professionals have provided services for several years in this country.

In the construction sector, Cuba is undertaking several infrastructure projects: a highway 142 kilometers long and two urban development projects. One is for 1,500 housing units and the other for 170. The two countries have

signed an agreement to establish air travel between them and one to govern cooperation in sports activities.

Syria

An executive program has been signed to draw up an agreement covering education, science, culture and information. The agreement will have effect until 1982. For the first time, a long-term trade protocol was signed between Cuba and Syria for sugar and other products during the 5-year period 1981-85. This document is an important step in the strengthening and development of trade relations between the two countries.

Nicaragua

The first agreement has been signed covering programs in which Cuba offers its contribution to the reconstruction of this country. The cooperation is aimed basically at the education, health and fishing sectors. A medical brigade made up of more than 200 specialists provides services in the health sector. In education, more than 2,000 Cuban teachers are contributing to the success of the current literacy campaign. They have also established 706 new classrooms, more than 170 school gardens and 137 school clubs. At the same time, they collaborate in making the environment hygienic.

Cuba offers technical cooperation for the construction of the Atlantic-Pacific highway 520 kilometers long through a brigade of specialists. It offers advice for the restructuring of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Construction, the creation of schools to train equipment operators for this branch and the training of intermediate-level technicians. Cuba has also delivered 10,000 tons of sugar to the Nicaraguan Government to prevent any shortage of this product.

To contribute to the fishing development of this country, Cuba donated 22 lobster and shrimp boats and offered technical advice for their use. The first contingent of Nicaraguan technicians is being trained at Cuban shipyards in the construction of ferroconcrete ships. Cuba has granted 1,200 scholarships for secondary students and a growing number of Cuban professors teach irrigation, drainage and agricultural and livestock sciences in Nicaraguan educational centers and act as advisers in the educational sector.

Mexico

A vast program of cooperation between these two countries is being carried out within the framework of the Cuban-Mexican intergovernmental commission. The agreements approved cover collaboration in the repair of transportation equipment, the exchange of mining information, the use of forests in mountainous regions, coffee growing, etc. Mexico provides information on ship construction and Cuba shares its experiences in growing sugar cane and the development of livestock production under tropical conditions.

The two countries are implementing a sugar program that includes: technological assistance and transfer of technology; the supply of equipment, spare parts and components; the installation of joint enterprises and joint production;

training and exchange of documentation and experiences; etc. Cuba has supplied Mexico with cane harvesters, collection and preprocessing stations for cleaning sugar cane and detailed engineering of typical sugar mills like those that the country is now constructing. Mexico has given Cuba basic and detailed engineering for the construction of furfural plants similar to those in Mexico. Both countries are establishing the bases to create and develop a joint Cuban-Mexican enterprise to manufacture equipment and components and provide technological transfer and services related to sugar production with the objective of satisfying the needs of both countries and exporting their production to other countries.

Other agreements have been signed recently to increase trade and cooperation between these two countries in different sectors of the economy. Mexico will supply Cuba with the necessary equipment for the installation of a ferroalloy plant as well as complementary technological experience and technical assistance. There are agreements for technological exchange in the chemistry and fertilizer industry. There is also a program to repair Cuban ships at the Veracruz shipyards and exchange information on the naval and fishing industry. Other activities involved in the agreements correspond to tourism, research on diseases of tropical crops, technical cooperation in social and labor matters and the formation of a work group to study foreign trade.

For the first time in the history of economic relations between Cuba and Mexico, a protocol on the oil sector has been signed. It includes a joint work program in geological prospecting for oil and gas on the Cuban shelf. The document also establishes the necessary operations to increase the production of liquid gas in Cuba including the first phase of remodeling the catalytic cracking plant at the Nico Lopez Refinery in Havana. Prospecting as well as expansion of the liquid gas production capacity will receive technical aid from Mexico, a country that is at the top in the oil industry.

With respect to trade, Mexico granted a credit to Cuba in 1975 for \$20 million which could be expanded in a subsequent period of 2 years to \$80 million. Within the framework of this credit, Mexico has exported transportation equipment, railroad cars and flatcars and other supplies like cotton fabric, non-ferrous metal contours and sheets, equipment for the sugar industry, electric motors, transformers, etc. to Cuba. Cuba has exported sugar, nickel, rum, cigars and cement to Mexico. There is an agreement to supply almost 500,000 tons of Cuban sugar to Mexico at the price on the world market on the day of each shipment.

Grenada

A basic agreement between the intergovernmental commission of both countries has been signed. It provides Cuban aid in many sectors of the Grenada economy like construction, agriculture, fishing, public health, education, communications, culture and sports. A medical brigade composed of 12 specialists provides services in this Caribbean country. It also advises on the improvement of the health care network and the organization of a free medical service.

A construction brigade with 250 workers and the necessary equipment has begun work on the new international airport as part of the aid Cuba gives Grenada.

Cuban assistance also includes the donation of 10 fishing boats and the training of Grenada personnel in this branch. Cuba has donated a large quantity of cement for the social construction plans that the government of this country is undertaking. Dozens of youths from Grenada study at advanced educational centers in Cuba.

Jamaica

The collaboration and assistance Cuba gives Jamaica cover different sectors of economic activity including agriculture, fishing, maritime studies, education and public health. Scientific and technical aid materializes through the study of diseases that affect cane, tobacco and other crops. Cuba has donated four secondary schools with the capacity for 2,000 students, a school to train physical education teachers and a sports complex to Jamaica. At the same time, contingents of Jamaican workers have been trained in construction in Cuba and dozens of students study at Cuban schools.

Guyana

The collaboration between these two countries began in 1974 with the signing of a fishing agreement. It now includes the sugar industry, forestry, agriculture, the food industry, light industry, mining, transportation, foreign trade, labor and social security, standardization, etc. The programs in these sectors include 13 joint projects with 46 objectives. A Cuban medical brigade has worked in Guyana for several years. Dozens of Guyanese technicians are being trained in advanced educational centers in Cuba.

Panama

Cuba provides scientific and technical aid in sugar production to this country. The ministries of agriculture of Cuba and Panama have signed an agreement for the development of cooperation in sugar production, coffee, citrus, fruit and agricultural research. Cuba exports sugar processing equipment, agricultural implements and young livestock to Panama. Panama in turn exports rice and other products to Cuba. The two countries have signed an air travel agreement and a branch of the National Bank of Cuba operates in Panama.

Colombia

The first agreement for economic, scientific and technical collaboration has been signed between Cuba and Colombia. It basically covers agriculture, fishing, the sugar industry, sports and other sectors. It will be in effect for 5 years. Cuba and Colombia have exchanged reciprocal visits of trade delegations, bringing about reciprocal trade in several categories.

Cuba implements different trade agreements and operations with other Latin American nations. Ecuador and Venezuela have received cement from Cuban factories. Economic ties with Trinidad-Tobago are being organized and trade operations are being carried out between Costa Rica and Cuba. Corresponding to the agreements signed and the possibilities for medium and short-term growth, trade is being developed between Cuba and Argentina. Cuba donated six

rural hospitals to Peru and signed an agreement for air travel between the two countries.

The internationalist work of the Cuban workers and technicians in other countries is an eloquent expression of what the determination and revolutionary fervor of a small nation can do without large resources. It is involved in achieving development through a sustained rate of economic growth but has the profound conviction that the development of others who need it must go along with that development. Cooperation, collaboration and mutually advantageous economic, scientific, technical and cultural relations have an immense effect on the international effort to conquer economic backwardness and strengthen friendship among peoples.

7717

CSO: 3248/256

CATTLE MORTALITY REPORTED DOWN FOR PAST YEAR

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 14 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Ramon Alberto Bendoyro]

[Text] A reduction of 3,428 deaths compared to an equivalent period last year is the result of work done in the cattle industry during the first 8 months of 1982.

A significant role has been played in this project by the movement for Units Free of Cattle Deaths, a movement supported by the relevant union and promoted by the province of Sancti Spiritus.

This result appears to insure compliance with the commitment to reduce deaths by 12,000 in 1983 and to achieve, over a 5-year period, a 5 percent reduction in deaths of infant calves and one percent among yearlings and adults, indices similar to those for the most developed countries with cattle industries.

So far this year there are 522 units free of deaths, who will be given a certificate in an official ceremony to be celebrated in each province, Sancti Spiritus has already received its certificate.

Notwithstanding these achievements, an extraordinary effort should be made to eliminate deficiencies in the handling of animals that cause accidents, which are the principal cause of death.

There are already 3,000 units classified as model units in this movement, and more than 5,000 highly productive cows.

This information was made known at the Plenary Veterinary Conference which met at the Agrarian Fair's theater at Rancho Boyeros, presided over by Rosa Elena Simeon, member of the Party's Central Committee and director of the National Center of Agrarian Hygiene, and attended by other officials of the central committees agrarian department, MINAG [the ministry of agriculture], and the union.

During the meeting three presentations were discussed which were the result of efforts by hundreds of professionals, technicians, and workers of CENSA [National Animal Health Center], the IMV [Institute of Veterinary Medicine], and the ICA [Institute of Animal Science].

The rank and file process included 188 plenary meetings, in which 6,399 men and women met and issued 1,383 resolutions.

On the topic of bovine mortality, the studies pointed out the significant role played by nutrition in affecting the rate of deaths directly, and the animals' predisposition to illness indirectly

Also discussed was the need to administer colostrum to calves immediately after birth as an ideal prophylactic to reduce mortality among newborns.

The study concerning the plan for disease prevention was the most thoroughly discussed. It was said that this is a fundamental weapon in the strategy to save resources, especially medications and clinical, surgical, and treatment materials. In this sense a proposal was made to organize a postgraduate course and give priority to future conferences organized around this topic for students of the country's four veterinary schools.

9839

CSO: 3248/203

BRIEFS

MINSAP TO BEGIN NEW VERMIN ERRADICATION PROGRAM--The third national campaign against rats and mice will begin next 10 November, and will continue until 10 December. On this occasion, the basic character of the program consists in distributing the anti-coagulant only to private homes and ground-floor apartments, but not to multiple dwellings or second stories. The campaign will be a joint effort by the Ministry of Public Health and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, with the latter being responsible for delivering the anti-rat pellets to homes and small work places. Larger work sites should apply to the nearest polyclinic, where they will be issued the product. The unions are asked to cooperate by demanding that their managers fulfill this duty. On the other hand, Tropicrat tablets will be placed around vacant lots that have been previously sprayed in order to achieve the best results, while workers of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Aqueducts and Sewers will deposit the product in the sewer system. The Ministry of Public Health has reiterated the importance, along with this campaign, of maintaining strict control over hygiene and sanitary procedures, in order to permit reduction of harmful rodent populations. [Text] [Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 19 Oct 82 p 4] 9839

CSO: 3248/203

BRIEFS

BANK DECLARES SURPLUS--Roseau, Dominica, Nov 24 (CANA)--Dominica's 10-year-old Agricultural Industrial and Development Bank (AID) has declared its first surplus--almost 43,000 East Caribbean dollars (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) for the financial year which ended last June 30. Last year, the bank had a deficit of 68,373 dollars. The AID Bank's manager, Vans Le Blanc said the total revenue for the year of 620,796 dollars was a 49 percent increase over 1981 and total expenditure was 577,998 dollars, up by 19.5 percent from last year. Mr Le Blanc attributed the bank's success chiefly to the continuous financial backing and guarantees of the Dominica government, the readiness of the Caribbean Development Bank to fund and provide technical assistance, and most important, the bank's ability to continually expand its lending, while keeping down operational costs. [Excerpt] [FL250200 Bridgetown CANA in English 2319 GMT 24 Nov 82 FL]

CSO: 3298/1162

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER FUTURE STABILITY OF CURRENCY

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 1 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Ruddy L. Gonzalez: "The Future Stability of the National Currency Causes Concern"]

[Text] The increases witnessed by the value of the United States dollar compared to the Dominican peso in the parallel [gray] foreign exchange market in the last few weeks constitutes a major cause of concern for the government and the private sector by virtue of their impact on financial and commercial operations as well as on the immediate future of the Dominican currency's stability.

In the past week the increase in value of the dollar, which had remained for over a month at a premium rate some 50 percent above the peso, has risen point by point, reaching a value 57 percent above the peso by the end of the week, and foreign exchange dealers and brokers predict that the United States fund will witness a premium rate of 60 percent with reference to the Dominican peso before the end of the year.

This situation has caused major concern on the part of the government and it became known that the problem was on the agenda at Saturday's meeting of the Dominican Cabinet headed by President Salvador Jorge Blanco even though no official details were subsequently released to the press.

However, the secretary of state of finance, Dr Rafael Abinader, reported that President Jorge Blanco personally instructed him to undertake an investigation and in short order to draw up a report on the causes which have underlain the rises witnessed by the value of the dollar last week and to make recommendations to meet the situation.

In the last few days both the official and the private sectors have tried to attribute to factors not under their control the increases which have prompted the dollar to be sold as high as the unusual rate of 57 percent above the peso.

In the opinion of the governor of the Central Bank, Bernardo Vega, the increase in the value of the dollar is due to the fact that in October 1982 businessmen acquired a sizable amount of the United States fund for their purchases of items to be sold in the Christmas season.

Despradel [not otherwise identified] also attributed the situation to the fact that in October, according to his statement, foreign and Dominican tourists living in New York, Miami, Puerto Rico, and other American cities visited the Dominican Republic [sic].

On their part, however, the foreign exchange dealers have attributed the increases in dollar rates to the entry into the foreign exchange purchases and sales market of commercial banks, recently authorized by the Monetary Board to realize those operations.

At present, under the authorization of the Monetary Board, only three commercial banks are buying and selling dollars in a form similar to that of foreign exchange dealers. They are Citibank, the Banco Popular, and the Chase Manhattan Bank. Even so these banks are authorized to sell dollars only to importers of items classified by the Central Bank.

Since the parallel foreign exchange market was allowed to exist through decree No 1,482 of 10 July 1967, the value of the dollar has remained high, but during the first 10 years of operations dollar premium rates barely reached 20 percent, and then 27 percent in 1978, which at that time became a subject of concern.

In 1968, a few months after the government began to apply the system of the so-called "appropriate dollars" to a series of imported goods, which before that time had been assigned dollars from the official banking system, that is, from the Central Bank, the value of the dollar barely exceeded by 13 percent that of the Dominican peso.

But gradually the majority of imported articles were transferred to the "appropriate dollars" market, a fact which prompted an increase in itinerant exchange dealers and brokers of United States currency.

Together with the constantly more difficult economic situation and a balance of payments with a growing deficit every year, the allocation of dollars from the official system to the private import trade has by now dropped to practically nil, and the Central Bank issues foreign exchange only to cover the imports of oil, medicines, and agricultural products.

In 1968 the value of the dollar stood at a 13 percent premium in the parallel market; in November 1976 it increased to 20 percent; but it was not until February 1978 that it reached 27 percent.

Despite the change in government, from the administration of former President Joaquin Balaguer to that of former President Antonio Guzman, involving a change in domestic economic policy, in May 1980 the dollar was being sold in the parallel foreign exchange market at a premium of 29.5 percent. In June 1980 it reached 34 and 35 percent premium rates above the value of the Dominican peso.

One of the factors which helped raise the value of the dollar was undoubtedly the inclusion in the market of the "appropriate currencies" of official organizations such as the National Price Stabilization Institute (INESPRE), which acquired many millions of dollars to cover the purchase of foodstuffs abroad, principally rice, as well as of enterprises of the CORDE [Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises] group, which needed "appropriate dollars" for their operations in acquiring raw materials, equipment, and other consumer items for their industries.

But while in a 10-year period, between 1968 and 1978, the premium rate of the dollar doubled from 13 to 27 percent compared to the value of the Dominican peso, in the past 3 and a half years the dollar rates rose so sharply that, on exceeding the level of 30 percent above the value of the peso, they have represented a serious setback for the Dominican economy, principally for the private import sector since the local prices of products purchased abroad have increased at the same rate as the dollar. These increases have ultimately been borne by the consumer.

When the premium on the dollar rate came to exceed 30 percent, the foreign exchange dealers, organized in the Association of Foreign Exchange Dealers, issued a communique indicating that they would set a dollar sales rate of around 25 percent above the peso rate, buying dollars for that purpose at no higher than a 23 percent premium so that the rates may remain at a level not likely to cause increased import costs.

Thus, in October 1981 the Association of Foreign Exchange Dealers declared that every Monday a report would be published in the local daily press informing the public of the rate applicable that week. However, not even the first of these bulletins was ever issued and in the subsequent weeks the dollar rates continued to rise.

In January 1982 this idea of the Association of Foreign Exchange Dealers was discussed once again, now with the participation of the National Council of Businessmen (CNHE), and even though it was again announced that measures would be taken to hold the rate of the United States currency at a certain level, on 13 February 1982 the dollar started to be sold at a premium of 40 percent compared to the Dominican peso, continuing a steady increase which, 2 days later, on 15 February 1982, boosted the dollar rate to a premium level of 43 and 44 percent above the peso.

Increases in the dollar's premium rate continued steadily, and in July 1982 the United States currency reached a level 50 percent above the value of the peso.

In August 1982, 3 days after President Jorge Blanco took office, as if by magic, the value of the dollar began to drop abruptly without there being any visible explanation for it. This slide reached such a point that in Santiago the dollar was selling as low as 26 and 28 percent above the peso.

On that occasion the Dominican authorities, headed by the governor of the Central Bank, Bernardo Vega, explained that the abrupt drop in dollar rates was due to the confidence that the citizens had placed in the new Dominican administration. But a few days later the dollar rate began to climb, and in no more than 8 days reached the 50 percent level, continuing to rise up to its current premium rate of between 56 and 57 percent above the peso.

Some 70 percent of the dollars which flow into the parallel market originate from remittances sent to their relatives by Dominicans residing abroad, especially in New York, Miami, and Puerto Rico. For many years, when the Christmas season would come around, when thousands of Dominicans would return to their country to visit, and when foreign tourists also flocked to the Dominican Republic, the dollar exchange rates would drop significantly. But during the 1981 Christmas season the dollar exchange rates remained at a level similar to that in the preceding weeks, and from the beginning of January 1982 the dollar rates shot upwards so that the behavior of these rates in earlier years was no longer a rule.

Now foreign exchange dealers predict that owing to the involvement of commercial banks in the purchase and sales market of dollars dollar exchange rates will continue to rise and that by the end of the year they will come close to selling at 60 percent premium above the peso.

Bernardo Vega, the governor of the Central Bank, noted that the entry of commercial banks into the foreign exchange purchase and sales market does not have any greater impact on the rise or drop in premiums because in his opinion what are involved are only two or three additional buyers and sellers of foreign exchange.

However, whatever the reasons which have underlain the fact that the dollars sold in the country enjoy a premium rate of over 50 percent and the fact that dollar premium rates may reach the 60 percent mark in the next few days compared to the value of the Dominican peso, this is a subject of great concern on account of the constant depreciation which our domestic currency is experiencing day in, day out, placing the Dominican economy into a constantly more uncertain situation.

2662

CSO: 3248/229

DAILY DENOUNCES LEFTIST PRESS EXAGGERATIONS, DISTORTIONS

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 30 Oct 82 p 8

[Editorial: "A Serious Warning"]

[Text] The new offensive of the leftist rebels of El Salvador has been, in the last few days, one of the most conspicuous news items for the news agencies and communications media of the continent.

The news coverage seems justified given that, if the reports which the news agencies get out of El Salvador are accurate, a situation which promises a new victory of Marxism-Leninism in Central America is involved.

It is nevertheless very possible that this offensive, like others which have preceded it, may have been exaggerated through the accommodating eyes of correspondents or through the good public relations which the exiled leaders of the Farabundo Marti [National Liberation] Front are pursuing from Mexico.

Only time will tell whether the triumphs of that offensive are real or whether they are merely the product of a publicity illusion created by the subjective interpretation of partisan newsmen.

The fact that there is no means of knowing whether the news reaching us from El Salvador is true is not a new phenomenon. It has already occurred in that same country as well as in other countries where confrontations are reported between forces characterized as popular forces and others described as reactionary. In general, the sympathies of the newsmen tend to lean toward the former. And unfortunately these sympathies distort their vision of events.

Alas, this is one of the characteristics of the social and political struggle in the present era. Many of the occurrences of this broad confrontation between hostile concepts regarding how people should be governed and how nations should be run are made known through writings and oral comments of foreign newsmen and sociologists who have an axe to grind or who view with sympathy, because they are not affected personally, things which in their own country they would find intolerable.

It is therefore necessary to take with a grain of salt not only many of the reports of what is happening in places remote from us but also local interpretations of what is happening in our own country.

Political or ideological passion seldom respects the truth, This is bad under any circumstance. But it is worse when newsmen allow themselves to be propelled by their political or social sympathies in the process of reporting for the mass communications media.

One recent example of that emotional distortion of the truth is offered to us by the public views voiced in the Chamber of Deputies expressing opinions on the bill for the mandatory association of newsmen. A consistent attempt was made there to rewrite our history and that of other nations. It was mentioned on that occasion, without any bashfulness whatever, that there is no longer a journalists' association in Cuba because the newsmen consider that they do not need one; that there are other forms of becoming organized more convenient to them. This was said with complete casualness, without any shame, despite the fact that in Cuba there is not the least vestige of freedom of association, expression of thought or work; despite the fact that in Cuba there has not been a free and independent press for over 2 decades.

The emotional distortion occurs here from the fact of assigning deliberative capability to newsmen in a country where there is no freedom of association, where unfettered criticism does not exist, where the right to dissent is a source of serious danger, and where the press is no more than a soundbox of official propaganda.

To rewrite history, to reinterpret facts in a capricious manner, to give arbitrary twists to current events is of course nothing new or strange. What is new is that greater use is made of this procedure every day in the communications media, particularly in those which respond to ideological or partisan directives.

It consequently seems to us that as this matter touches us so closely, one of the duties of independent newsmen is to warn about the existence of that danger which is insidiously harming the capacity of public opinion to apprehend the truth objectively.

2662

CSO: 3248/229

SHEARER ADDRESSES GENEVA GATT MEETING

FL271811 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 27, CANA--Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister Hugh Shearer has called for individual and joint action by members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to remove the barriers inhibiting Western trade.

In an address to the first GATT ministerial meeting in nine years on Thursday in Geneva, Mr Shearer charged that the root cause of the malaise in the international trading system was the failure by the industrialised countries to take the necessary structural adjustment measures.

"Instead they have resorted to increasingly protectionist policies in a futile search for solutions," he said. "Underlying this is an increasing lack of faith in the effectiveness of an open trading system as a contributor to economic growth."

Mr Shearer, whose text was made available here, told the 88-member grouping: "We must therefore utilise the political authority invested in this meeting to agree on individual and joint action to remove the existing protectionist measures."

GATT, a multilateral contract covering 80 percent of the world's commerce, was set up in January 1948 to prevent the protectionism that reinforced the 1930's depression.

Mr Shearer said that the fight against protectionism was not a fight about an abstraction, but about trade restrictions which lead to a pattern of inefficient resource allocation, declining employment opportunities, and a reduction in output, incomes and standards of living on a global scale.

"The primary objective of this ministerial meeting," he said, "is to improve the conditions for international trade, expand the flow of goods and services and thereby increasing employment and incomes in all our countries."

He said it was necessary therefore to identify a programme of work and appropriate mechanisms for achieving these objectives.

The Jamaican deputy leader suggested an approach for consideration by the meeting, which involved an improvement of the organisation and work of GATT's council, so that it would effectively carry out its notification, surveillance and dispute settlement functions.

"Protectionist measures currently in force should, on a progressive basis, be brought within the GATT and subjected to its disciplines," he said, "at the same time, greater emphasis should be placed on conciliation in the dispute settlement procedures of the GATT."

Mr Shearer felt the council should set in train a comprehensive review of the results of the multilateral trade negotiations. He said members should ensure that in the implementation of the agreement and arrangements there is full consistency with the general agreement and that they do not inhibit the attainment of GATT's objectives.

In addition, he said, they must be certain that the interests of the smaller trading partners, specifically, the developing countries, are fully protected.

"Existing committees should conclude the work on issues left over from the multilateral trade negotiations with priority being given to safeguards and the provision of greater security of access for developing countries," Mr Shearer said.

He pledged Jamaica's support for a comprehensive review of all measures affecting trade in the agricultural sector and felt that a committee on agriculture would make an important contribution.

Mr Shearer said that the developing countries have been the dynamic element in international trade over the past few years, pointing out that between 1973 and 1980, trade among industrialised countries declined from 74 to 67 percent, while the share of their exports to all developing countries increased from 19 to 26 percent.

"The measures we agree on at this meeting should not merely assist in averting trade wars amongst developed countries, but must advance the trade, financial and development needs of each developing contracting party," he said.

Mr Shearer also called for the appointment of a group of governmental and independent experts to study present trends and seek to discern future issues of significance to the international trading system.

The last time this was done in GATT was in 1958 when the so-called Haberler report was published, he noted, and over the past 24 years, the structure of world production has undergone fundamental changes, hence the need for another comprehensive examination.

CSO: 3298/1161

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC SITUATION

PM241517 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 11 Nov 82 p 4

[Interview with Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp by Michele De Waard: "We Do Not See Old-Style Elections Working"; date not given]

[Text] Paramaribo--"The recent strikes by the Moederbond trade union have led to an acceleration of the political process in Suriname. The actions have shaken a large number of people awake and forced us to face the fact that as a government we not only need to be economically active but should also act as politicians," Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp said of the strikes which the Moederbond announced 3 weeks ago in order to force free elections and the return of the military to its barracks. Naarendorp is well-known as a moderate left wing politician and is a member of the policy center, the country's highest authoritative body. Naarendorp stressed that he himself finds the process towards democratization stagnating too much.

"For months we have been talking about this in the policy center, but nothing much has happened. The positive side of the union actions is that at least through them there has been accelerated discussion of a new democratic structure. In fact the revolutionary process begun in 1980 only now has a real chance of taking shape, since the ideological struggle has now become clear."

[Question] As a result of the strikes the policy center has begun talks with all the five trade unions on a new political structure. There were new talks yesterday. The Moederbond is still insisting on the demand for free elections in the short term. Is this possible?

[Answer] I do not believe that this is a real demand. We in Suriname only have a couple of alternatives. We could return to the old political system and polish it up a bit. But its fundamental weakness is that this model does not include regional representation or real democratic structures. The result is a shift toward an ethnic orientation in politics. This is an essential shortcoming in the system and it would not disappear. The former NPS [Suriname National Party, a Creole group] and VHP [United Hindu Party] were not parties, but cultures. This is why we do not see old-style elections working.

But we do believe that elections will be possible within new democratic structures which are being worked on at the moment. Then a transitional phase would have to be drawn up within which a new political model would have to be worked out.

[Question] In the plans which the trade unions are discussing with the policy center a national assembly of functional groups is proposed which would have to give concrete form to these new structures in this transitional phase. There is major disagreement about exactly what is to be understood by functional groups. Lawyers and doctors, for example, are also claiming that they are functional groups. Will they be admitted?

[Answer] We have the feeling that something like this cannot be asked for just like that, for the simple reason that functionality must be measured by a number of criteria. For example, the exercise of pressure and then the effect of such a group on the economy and social structures in Suriname. We must look at these points of departure otherwise we would get an endless series of groups claiming to be functional and wanting a seat in the assembly. In such a case we might as well include interest groups for the handicapped and homosexuals. Naturally, we cannot do this. Among functional groups we think of trade unions and employers' federations, workers, women and children. This is also why the government wants to introduce regional democracy so that--in principle--every citizen can be involved.

[Question] The Moederbond is also involved in the talks with the policy center. But nevertheless rumblings are still coming from the unions' grass roots that the strikers' demands still have not been met. Do you still expect protests to directly force free elections?

[Answer] That is something I cannot predict. I suppose that in all honesty we must say that 30-year-old policies still have an effect. Given the massive attendance at the Moederbond meeting last Sunday [31 October]. We have to accept this as a fact. But as a government we would take tough action against the malevolent publication of information or inflammatory actions by the opposition.

[Question] Shots have been fired at the house of Mr Haakmat, the Moederbond's adviser, possibly in connection with the actions. Is it not disturbing that the violence threshold has been overstepped in Surinamese society?

[Answer] That really is a regrettable development. In a small society like ours the violence margin, that is tolerance of violence, is fearfully small. If a few people die here a day of national mourning is called almost immediately. This means that we are a community which if we followed the path of violence would not have any winners, only losers. We would find ourselves in a very difficult and dubious situation. For this reason I find the attempt against Haakmat most unfortunate, although I do not exclude the possibility that it could be a stage-managed event. Because of its nature and the manner in which it came to my notice it is a very difficult thing to swallow.

CSO: 3214/7

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY262218 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] The various productive sectors of the country reacted with surprise in view of the new economic measures the government has announced it will implement as of next Monday.

In the meantime the government's economic team continues in session drawing up and adjusting the various resolutions which will modify the current Uruguayan economic policy.

All financial and stock market operations were paralyzed as a consequence of the bank holiday which started today.

The social benefits department suspended payments today since they will henceforth be made through banks. However, the payment for services covered by the social security system are being carried out as usual.

All activities on the stock exchange have also been suspended.

All financial operations coming due today will be settled on Monday during regular office hours.

The government's measures were disclosed through a communique issued by the National Public Relations Bureau (DINARC) which states:

The well-known international economic crisis which also affects our country, with an undesired repercussion in the level of activities, job sources, public finances and international reserves, has deteriorated beyond the appraisal made at the beginning of the year.

Foreseeing that this would eventually happen, limits were timely established on economic variables so that when those limits were reached measures could be implemented in order to prevent us from reaching extreme situations which would be difficult to handle.

The communique then states that in view of such circumstances the executive branch has decided to implement a package of measures aimed at cushioning,

as much as possible, the dire effects of an economic crisis which may deteriorate even more with time.

It then points out that these measures, which are adopted within the framework of the political opening being conducted by the government and which modify some of the economic tools in a way that is deemed more appropriate to confront the current situation, are:

A. Exchange Policy

The Uruguayan Central Bank will withdraw from the exchange market for as long as deemed necessary to allow the exchange rate to fluctuate according to supply and demand.

Further on, the Central Bank will determine the exchange policy which will be strictly followed. In this regard, it must be pointed out that the Central Bank's international reserves as of today amount to \$1.11 billion and that gold was conservatively quoted at \$400 per ounce. The bank of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay no longer will establish forward-exchange rates.

B. Monetary Policy

The Uruguayan Central Bank may resort to tools such as legal reserves and open market operations when the circumstances so require.

C. Fiscal Policy

The approved measures will tend to maintain a fiscal balance during 1983-84.

Benefits will be granted to taxpayers on industrial and commercial profits through an inflation adjustment system.

Adjustment on property tax.

D. Salary Policy

A 15 percent salary increase is granted to the public and private sector as of 1 January 1983.

Adjustment of retirement pensions on the basis of the salary increase to be granted as of 1 January 1983.

After the aforementioned increase goes into effect, the establishment of salaries in the private sector will be deregulated, except for the establishment of a minimum salary.

In the future the salary policy for the public sector will be subject to resolutions by the treasury.

E. Trade Policy

Beginning 1 January 1983, the current tariff policy will be replaced by a new tariff structure which will have less representative categories for raw materials, semi-finished and finished products.

The new tariff structure is intended to lower protectionism in a way that is compatible with the new foreign exchange market.

Elimination of all those protectionist customs duties or reference prices, except those which are in force to prevent unfair trade practices.

Elimination of the exports financing system.

Elimination of the 10 percent reimbursement and additional surcharge.

Elimination of the reimbursement system which will be replaced as of 1 January 1983 by the reimbursement of indirect taxes. This will be carried out in compliance with GATT regulations.

Implementation of a transitory tax on traditional exports whose effect will be similar to that of eliminating reimbursement on nontraditional exports.

The DINARC communique ends by stating that in order to implement the aforementioned measures it has been decided to decree a bank holiday on Friday, 26 November.

Although the economic measures implemented by the executive branch will cause uncertainty among wage earners, they will favor exporters.

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END